

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (New) An expandable intra-gastric balloon for treating obesity, for implanting in the stomach of a patient in order to reduce the volume of the stomach, said balloon comprising:

at least one flexible bag presenting an inside face and an opposite, outside face, said inside and outside faces forming the surface of the at least one flexible bag, wherein at least a portion of said surface is covered by a coating comprising parylene.

18. (New) The balloon of claim 17, wherein said at least one flexible bag is made from silicone.

19. (New) The balloon of claim 17, wherein the coating is constituted by parylene C.

20. (New) The balloon of claim 17, wherein the surface of the at least one flexible bag is covered entirely by the coating, with the exception of zones acting as interfaces with devices fitted to the at least one flexible bag.

21. (New) The balloon of claim 17, wherein the thickness of the coating lies in the range of 0.2 μm to 100 μm .

22. (New) The balloon of claim 21, wherein the thickness of the coating lies in the range of 1 μm to 50 μm .

23. (New) The balloon of claim 17, wherein said at least one flexible bag is configured to connect to a corresponding fluid source in order to expand said at least one bag in the stomach by being filled with fluid.

24. (New) The balloon of claim 17, wherein said at least one flexible bag comprises a first flexible bag and a second flexible bag, said second flexible bag being disposed inside the first flexible bag.

25. (New) The balloon of claim 24, wherein said second flexible bag is configured to be connected to a second fluid source in order to expand said second bag in the stomach by being filled with fluid.

26. (New) The balloon of claim 25, wherein the surface of each of said first and second flexible bags is covered, at least in part, by the coating comprising parylene.

27. (New) A method of fabricating an expandable intra-gastric balloon for treating obesity, said balloon being designed to be implanted in the stomach of a patient in order to reduce the volume of the stomach, comprising:

depositing a coating of parylene on at least a portion of a surface of at least one inflatable bag of said balloon, the at least one flexible bag having an inside face and an opposite, outside face, said inside and outside faces forming the surface.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of depositing the coating of parylene further comprises:

depositing the coating of parylene on at least one bag by rarefied gas deposition.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

fabricating the flexible bag from an elastomer material.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of:

sterilizing the balloon by subjecting the balloon to gamma radiation.

31. (New) A method comprising:

coating an intra-gastric balloon with parylene.

32. (New) A method of sterilizing an intra-gastric balloon, comprising:
prior to subjecting the balloon to gamma radiation, covering the balloon in a protective coating based on a polymer.
33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of covering the balloon further comprises:
covering the balloon in the protective coating based on the polymer, the polymer being parylene.
34. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of:
subjecting the balloon to gamma radiation.
35. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising:
applying the protective coating on an outside face of the balloon.
36. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of covering the balloon in the protective coating further comprises:
covering the balloon with the protective coating of parylene having a concentration of parylene sufficient for protecting the balloon against gamma radiation.